VA Continuity of Care Document (VA CCD) User Guide

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Definitions

For questions about using My HealtheVet, use the <u>Contact MHV</u> link at the top of every My HealtheVet page.

Introduction to the VA Continuity of Care Document (VA CCD)

My Health**e**Vet offers Veterans who use the VA Health Care System and have a <u>Premium</u> account, another way to share their information. The **VA CCD** was designed to allow Veterans to electronically share their VA health information with a non-VA health care system or provider.

The **VA CCD** is a summary of essential health and medical care information from your VA health record. It gives non-VA providers access to your most important VA health information at the point of care.

At this time, the **VA CCD** can only be read by a computer application that has the capability to read or process an .xml file. Because a growing number of non-VA health care systems have applications that can read a <u>CCD</u>, it is good to download and save your **VA CCD** to a <u>thumb drive</u> and/or <u>CD</u>. This way you have it available, should you want to share it.



What Is Needed to Use the VA Continuity of Care Document (VA CCD)

To access your **VA CCD** you must:

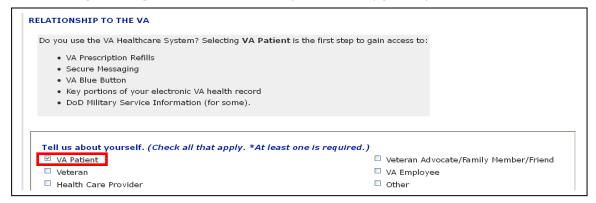
- Be a Veteran enrolled at a VA health care facility
- Be registered as a VA Patient in My HealtheVet
- Have a My HealtheVet Premium account

To get a My Health**e**Vet Premium account, you will need to go through <u>Authentication</u>. The VA verifies a Veterans' identity by this process. This is done before allowing access to their VA health record. The first step to obtaining a Premium account is to register for a My Health**e**Vet account.

Have a My HealtheVet account - <u>Registration</u> is quick and easy.



- When you register, enter your First Name, Middle Name and Last Name, Date of Birth, Gender and Social Security Number. If you use the VA Health Care System, it is important that this information match your VA electronic health record information. TIP: Use your Veterans Identification Card (VIC) information to match your VA electronic health record information.
- If you use the VA Health Care System, make sure you select the **VA Patient** checkbox (view sample below) when you register. This must be done before you get your upgraded Premium account. You will need to go through the Authentication process to upgrade your account.



If you have already registered for a My Health**e**Vet account and need to check that you have registered as a **VA Patient**, do the following:

- Login to My HealtheVet
- Select the PERSONAL INFORMATION tab
- Select the **Profiles** sub-tab
- Under Relationship to the VA, if you use the VA Health Care System, make sure you select the VA Patient checkbox
 - If VA Patient is not checked and you use the VA Health Care System, select this box
 - This will put a checkmark in the box
- Select the Save button at the bottom of the screen.

Premium Account Users and the VA Continuity of Care Document (VA CCD)

To access your **VA CCD**, you will need to upgrade your My Health**e**Vet account. This can be done through **Authentication**. The VA verifies a Veterans' identity before allowing access to their VA health record by this process. This is done to protect your personal information. Before you can start to upgrade your account, you first need to be registered in My Health**e**Vet as a **VA Patient**. If you do not have an account, please take this time to <u>register</u>.

After you have registered on My HealtheVet as a **VA Patient**, there are two ways to upgrade your My HealtheVet account:

1. In-Person Authentication (IPA)

Upgrade your account in person. This can be done at your local VA Medical Center or Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC).

2. Online Authentication

Upgrade your account through www.ebenefits.va.gov. This is for users who have a connected eBenefits DS Logon Premium account & My HealtheVet VA Patient account.

In-Person Authentication can be done the next time you visit your local VA health care facility. Simply follow these three steps:

- 1. Print, read and sign the <u>VA Release of Information (ROI) form (10-5345a-MHV)</u> (PDF)
- 2. Take a copy of your signed form and government issued photo identification (Veterans Identification Card or valid driver's license) to your local VA health facility and give it to a qualified VA staff member
- 3. After the VA staff verifies your information, your My HealtheVet account can be upgraded.

Online Authentication is for users who have a connected eBenefits DS Logon Premium account & My HealtheVet VA Patient account. It can be done anytime, anywhere, 24/7, and you will not need to visit a VA facility. However, before you can start to upgrade your My HealtheVet account online, you need to:

- Be registered in My HealtheVet as a VA Patient
- Have an eBenefits/DS Logon Premium Account
- Have your My HealtheVet VA Patient account information match what is in <u>DEERS</u> (e.g., full name, Social Security Number, date of birth and/or gender)
- Connect your eBenefits/DS Logon and My HealtheVet Accounts.

After you have successfully <u>Connected Accounts</u>, if you are a **VA Patient** in My HealtheVet and do not have an upgraded account, you will be asked if you would like to start to upgrade your account. Before you select **YES**, please follow these steps to start Online Authentication:

- 1. Download, print, and sign the <u>VA Release of Information (ROI) form (10-5345a-MHV)</u> (PDF)
- 2. Mail your signed form to the Release of Information Office at your local VA health care facility. You can use the <u>Facility Locator</u> to find the address
- 3. Select YES UPGRADE MY ACCOUNT

Note: Please allow up to 20 business days to complete the Online Authentication process.



The <u>VA Blue Button</u> makes it easy to share your data with a non-VA health care provider. It is a tool that gives you a detailed view of your My HealtheVet information. As a registered user of My HealtheVet, you can use **VA Blue Button** to view, print and download your self-entered personal information. Based on your My HealtheVet account type, you may also be able to access specific **VA Blue Button** features. The three account types available are: Basic, Advanced and Premium. For more information about these accounts, go to <u>My HealtheVet Account Types</u>.

If you have registered on My Health**e**Vet as a VA Patient and have an upgraded <u>Premium</u> account, you may have access to some information from your personal VA health record and/or Department of Defense (DoD) Military Service Information. You will also have access to your **VA CCD**.

Your **VA CCD** is not intended to be a complete medical history. It only contains a summary of essential health and medical care information from your VA health record.

There are key differences between **VA Blue Button** and **VA CCD**:

VA Blue Button:

- Information is available in three file formats (PDF, txt. and .bluebutton).
- You are able to print, save and/or download your information.
- May contain a combination of information:
 - Self-entered (all account types)
 - VA medications (Advanced Account)
 - Key portions of your VA health record (Premium Account)
 - DoD Military Service Information (for some Veterans with an Advanced or Premium Account
- You can customize the types of information to include and the date range of the information.

VA CCD:

- Information is provided in an .xml file format.
- Contains pre-selected clinical information from your VA health record.
- Your health data is organized and transportable.
- You can download and save the file; however, you may not be able to read the file within your browser.
- Your file is only viewable to providers who have the capability to read or process .xml files.
- The file contains standardized information and cannot be customized.

General Information

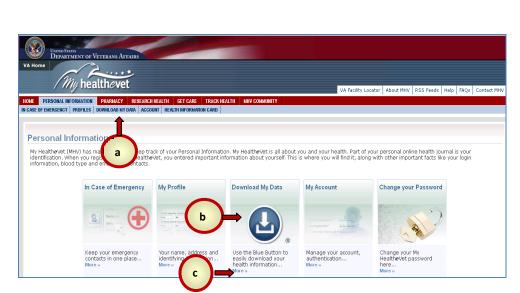
- If you use the VA Health Care System and want to access your VA CCD and view parts of your official VA health record and/or DoD Military Service Information, you must complete the <u>Authentication</u> process.
- Your **VA CCD** is an electronic document that is only available in an .xml file format. It can be displayed by modern electronic medical record systems and some web browsers (e.g. Internet Explorer 9.0.8112 and Firefox 16.0.2).
- To access your **VA Blue Button** as well as your **VA CCD**, you need a computer with a browser and Internet access. Some people have Internet access in their home. Public libraries and Internet cafés also provide Internet access. If you want to download your health information using a public computer, consider saving your information to a <u>CD</u> or <u>thumb drive</u>. You need to have access to a printer connected to the computer if you want to print your health information.
- You are the only one who can view your health information in My HealtheVet. You choose with whom to share your information. If you want someone else to view your health information, you must give it to that person.
- You are responsible for <u>protecting your personal health information</u> you print out or download. *It is important to protect your information*. Protect this information the same way you would protect your banking or credit card information. Do not leave your printed information in a printer. Do not save your downloaded information to a public computer. When using a public computer, save your health information to a CD or a thumb drive. Remember to take the CD or thumb drive with you when you finish.

IMPORTANT: Please note that any information entered in your My HealtheVet account is for you only and is not shared with your VA facility. If you need to update the information in your official VA record, including the mailing address for your VA prescriptions, please contact the appropriate office at your local VA facility.



How to Find the VA Continuity of Care Document (VA CCD)





- **1.** To use the **VA CCD** you must have a <u>Premium</u> My Health**e**Vet account.
- 2. You can Login to your personal account from any page in My HealtheVet. Enter your User ID and Password in the Member Login area and

then select the Login

- **3**. There are two ways you can access the **VA CCD**:
- You can select the PERSONAL INFORMATION tab at the top of the page. This will take you to the PERSONAL INFORMATION page.
- You can select Download
 My Data, next to the image
 of the VA Blue Button. This
 will take you straight to the
 Blue Button page where you
 will have the option to
 Download My Continuity
 of Care Document (VA
 CCD) data.
- 4. If you selected the **PERSONAL INFORMATION** tab, this page will appear. There are three ways on the **PERSONAL INFORMATION** page to access the Blue Button.

You can also:

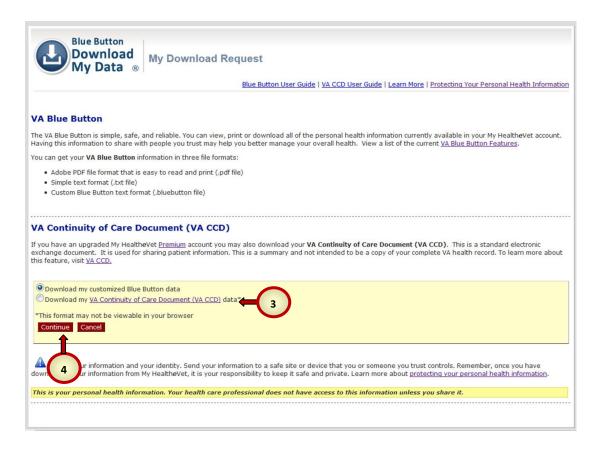
- a. Select the **DOWNLOAD MY DATA** tab at the top of the page
- b. Select the **Blue Button** image in middle of the page
- c. Or, select the word More>> under the Blue Button image.



To access your **VA CCD** you must have an upgraded My Health**e**Vet <u>Premium</u> account. It contains information that may help your non-VA health care team and provider better manage your health care. Your health information is presented in an organized way that can be electronically exchanged with non-VA health care systems and non-VA providers. Your **VA CCD** is not a complete record of your VA medical history. It only includes essential information necessary for the safe and effective continuation of your care.

Information in your **VA CCD** is provided in an <u>.xml file format</u>. This standardized exchange file format can only be displayed by applications that support .xml files. You can save/download your **VA CCD** to a <u>thumb drive</u> and/or <u>CD</u>. This way it is portable and can be easily shared.

My Download Request



To download your VA CCD:

- 1. Login My HealtheVet
- 2. If you have a Premium account, you will have an option to select one of the following files:
 - O Download my customized Blue Button data
 - Download my VA Continuity of Care Document (VA CCD) data

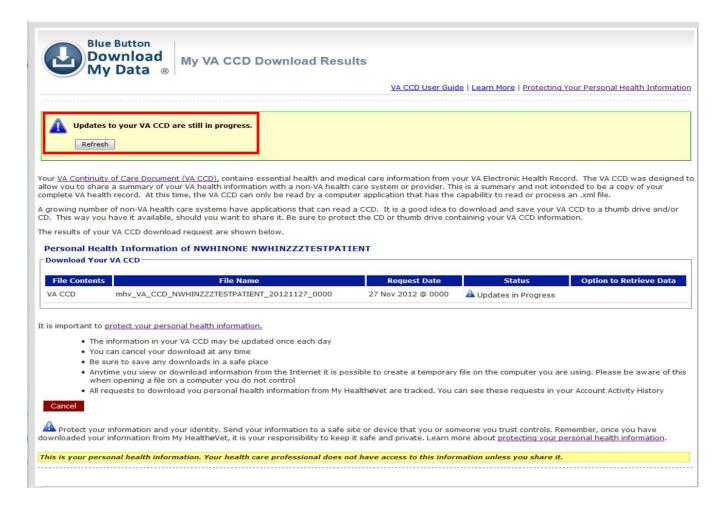
NOTE: If you do not have a Premium account these options are not available and you will only see the button to continue.

- 3. Select Download My Continuity of Care Document (VA CCD) data
- 4. Select the **Continue** Continue button.

My VA CCD Download Results

Once you have selected to continue, you will be brought to the My VA CCD Download Results page.

Here you will be presented with the information you have selected to download. You will also have the option to refresh your **VA CCD** data.



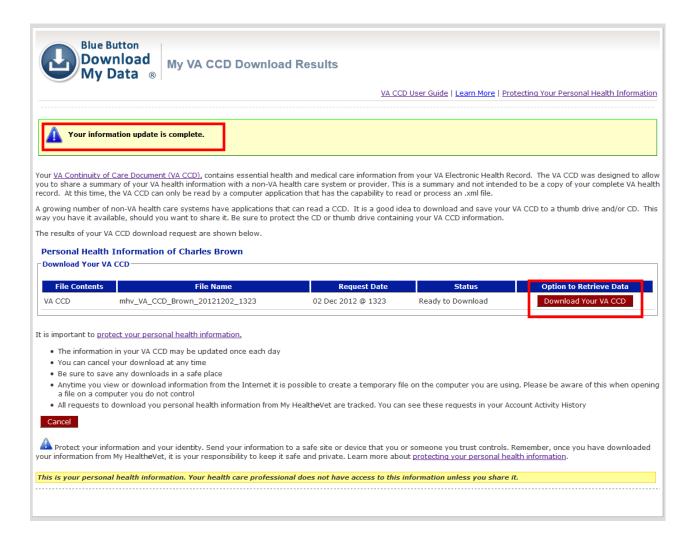
This page also gives you a table displaying the results of your download request.



- File Contents shows that you have Selected VA CCD
- File Name puts a label on your data to help you find it, if you decide to download.
- Request Date shows you the date and time you made your request.
- Status lets you know where your request is (Ready to Download).
- Option to Retrieve Data will allow you to download your data.

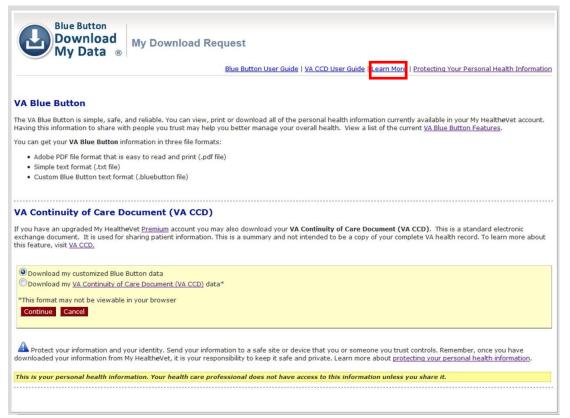
Information Update Complete

Once your data has been updated you will now have the option to download your VA CCD.





At the top of the **My Download Request** page and the **My VA CCD Download Result** page there is a **Learn More** link.

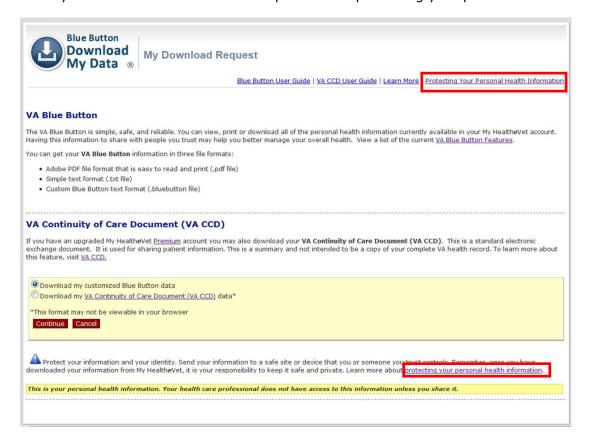


To get more information on the VA Blue Button and VA Continuity of Care Document select the Learn More link.

The **Learn More** page gives you a brief summary about what **VA Blue Button** and **VA Continuity of Care Document** are and the benefits of using them.



At the top of the **My Download Request** page and the **My Download Result** page there is a link that takes you to information about the importance of protecting your personal health information.



To read more about why it is important to protect your personal health data, select the **Protecting Your Personal Health**Information link.

Protecting Your Personal Health Information

The Department of Veterans Affairs takes safeguarding and protecting your information very seriously. You should, too, You control access to your personal information. It is your responsibility to keep your information private and protected. To hole prefeter, your privary, Private Health et providing your with some spectrate points to remember.

Posswords

**Keep your password is secret, safe and secure. If you need to write them down, put them in a safe, secure place

**You should not share your password with others. Treat your password like you would your credit card, Remember, your password sopen up records to your personal information

**Consider Changing your password every so often or 9 you were their bousemen night know which its. (The recommendation is to change your password every three months.)

**Do not re-use your password on other sites. This may allow others to steal your password from less secure websites

Downloading Information

If you download your health or service information, make sure it is to a safe and secure location like:

**You may want to download your information to a Co or flash drive. If so, consider purchasing an encrypted flash drive. You may also encrypt or require a password to access a CD

**Keep your flash drive or other device in a safe place. Fast tiles you do all of your other important information

**Destroy paper copies in a safe and secure place like a located desk drawer or a personal safe

**Make sure you take all printing pass from the printer. We know it is easy to get distracted and leave something behind, do not let that something be your personal information

**Destroy paper copies of your records or flash drives with family members or caregivers, make sure that they safeguard your information tool

**Avoid sharing your password with others. Remember, you corrid access to your personal hardmannshor. Protect it and keep it safe

**Do so that they your thing building the paper complex of flash drives with family

To leave the **Protecting Your Personal Health Information**page, select the **Close**button at the bottom of the

page. This will take you back to
the page you were on when you
selected **Protecting Your Personal Health Information**

Throughout the Blue Button pages, there will be the following reminders about the importance of protecting your health information:



Protect your information and your identity. Send to a safe site or device that you or someone you trust controls.

Account Activity History

The Account Activity History lets you know who saw your account, when a change was made, and what the change was. With this feature, you can view and print up to **12 months** of your account activity. My Health**e**Vet guards your privacy. You can read more about this in the **Privacy & Security** link available at the bottom of each My Health**e**Vet page.

To View your Account Activity History



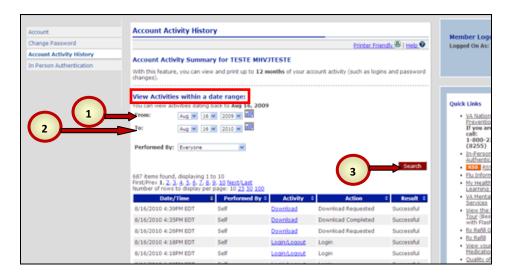
To see your Account Activity History:

- Login to your My HealtheVet account
- 2. Select the **Personal Information** Tab at the top of the page
- **3.** Select the **Account** subtab
- 4. Select Account Activity History.



When you open the **Account Activity History** page, you see a table with the type of activity, who did it, the date and time it was done, action and result. If there is activity you do not understand, please contact the My HealtheVet Help Desk by selecting the **Contact MHV** tab.

View Activities within a date range – lets you choose the dates for the activities you want to view.

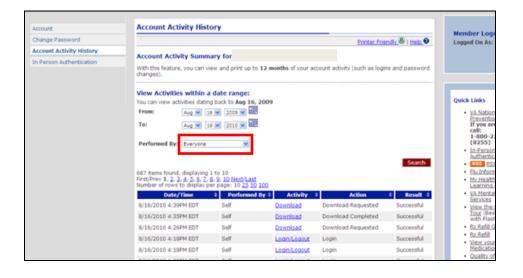


To set a date range:

- 1. In the **From:** section use the drop down lists to enter your start day, month, and year.
- 2. In the **To:** section use the drop down lists to enter your stop day, month, and year.
- **3.** To see your activities within your chosen date range, select the **Search** button.

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View Activities Performed By – lets you sort activities based on who has accessed your account.

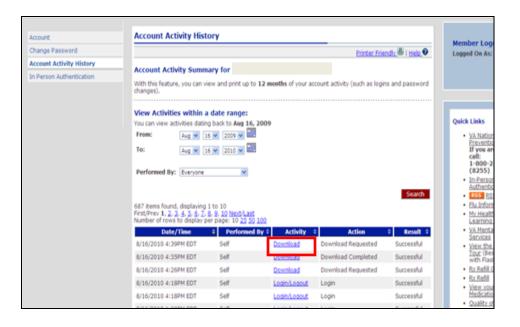


To sort activities based on who has accessed your account, choose one of the options from the **Performed By** dropdown list:

- Everyone
- Everyone But Self
- Help Desk Administrator
- MHV Authenticator
- Self
- System
- Unknown

Account Activity History - To View Details Page

To access a detailed view of your **Account Activity History**, select the link to the activity about which you want to more information about.



You can view details about an activity by selecting the link for that activity under the **Activity** column.

This will take you to the **Details Page**.

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Account Activity History - Details Page



The **Details Page** gives you information about a selected activity and includes:

- Date/Time
- Performed by
- Activity
- Activity details
- Action
- Results

Select the **Return to Summary**Return to Summary button to return to the **Account Activity History** table.

If you chose to customize your download, your **Account Activity History** may show the following actions:

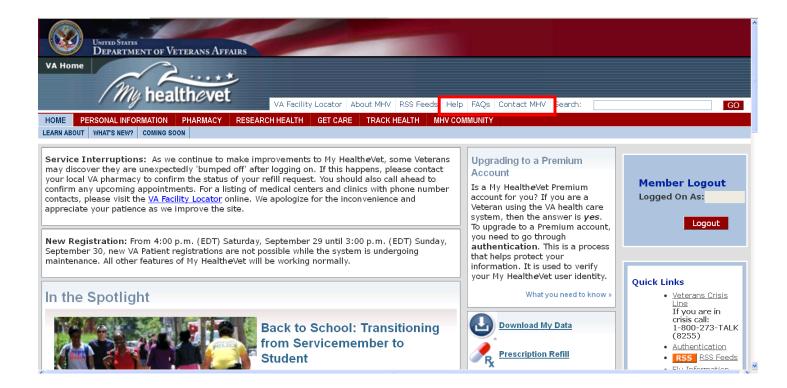
- Custom Download Requested
- View My Custom Data
- Print My Custom Data
- Download My Custom Data
- Download My Custom Data .pdf
- Download My Custom Data bluebutton
- Download My VA CCD
- VA CCD Download Requested

Frequently Asked Questions, Help and Contact MHV

At the top of every page is a white bar where you can get support.

Select FAQs to take you to Frequently Asked Questions and get answers to common questions about the VA Continuity of Care Document (VA CCD).

Select **Contact MHV** to send a message to the My Health**e**Vet Help Desk.





Data

Data is your health information in words and numbers. Blue Button refers to health information and numbers you entered in My Health **e**Vet and the copies from your official VA electronic health record as your data.

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Compact Disc (CD)

A Compact Disc (also known as a CD) is a round disc used to store information from your computer. A CD is portable and requires special handling to prevent damage to the recording. A CD is one of the most common ways to store information.

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Thumb drive

A thumb drive is a small electronic device used to store information from your computer. It is also known as a flash drive or pen drive. A thumb drive is lightweight, portable and easy to use for moving information. It fits into the USB slot on a computer. Then the computer can read your transferred information.

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Authentication

Authentication is a process used to verify a My Health**e**Vet user's identity before allowing them access to their VA health record. This process must be completed to get an upgraded Premium_My Health**e**Vet account.

Veterans with a Premium account are able to:

- View VA Chemistry/Hematology Lab results
- Receive information on their VA Appointments, including email reminders
- View VA Allergy and Adverse Reactions records
- Receive VA Wellness Reminders
- View additional parts of their VA health record, as they become available
- Use **Secure Messaging** to communicate with their VA health care team
- View Department of Defense (DoD) Military Service Information (for some Veterans)

Veterans can upgrade their account through either In-Person or Online Authentication. Before Authentication can occur, a Veteran must be:

- Enrolled at a VA health care facility
- Registered as a VA Patient in My HealtheVet

To upgrade their account online, a Veteran will also need to:

- Have a DS Logon Premium Account
- Have their My HealtheVet account information (full name, Social Security Number, date of birth, and gender) exactly match what is in <u>DEERS</u>
- Connect their DS Logon Premium account and their My HealtheVet account (to learn more, visit <u>Connecting Accounts: Frequently Asked Questions</u>)

Continuity of Care Document (CCD)

A CCD is an electronic document (in an .xml file format*). It uses recognized standards to support the effective exchange of information between health care providers.

The goal of a CCD is to:

- Provide a summary of a patient's essential health and medical care information that can be used for the continued care of the patient.
- Allow for information about the patient in one health system to be exchanged with another health system that is providing care to the patient.
- Be used by patients within other computer applications or systems that can accept this type of file.

*This file is only viewable to health care systems and providers who have the capability to read or process an .xml file.

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.xml file

.xml is a kind of file format that stands for Extensible Markup Language. It is only viewable to providers and health care systems that have the capability to read or process .xml files.